

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action of September 8, 2005, in which claims 1-23 were previously pending. Of those, claims 19-23 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed toward a non-elected invention. Of the remaining claims, claims 1-12 have been allowed. Claims 13-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, as is set forth on pages 3-4 of the present action.

With regard to the objection to the specification, paragraph [0022] has been amended to define the abbreviation "MT" (which stands for "mechanical transfer"). MT is a well known term in the art of optical ferrules/connectors. In addition, paragraph [0027], claim 2 and claim 14 have been amended to define the abbreviation "CTE" (which stands for "coefficient of thermal expansion"), another term that is well known in the art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

With regard to the objection to the drawings as a result of reference number 140 being used to describe both a "metallization layer" and an "electronic circuit," paragraphs [0025] and [0026] have been amended to delete reference to an "electronic circuit" with respect to reference number 140, and instead substitute "metallization layer." Reference number 140, as depicted in the Figures, is intended to depict a single structural element (i.e., the metallization layer). Accordingly, as a result of the amendment to the specification, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.


Next, claims 3 and 15 (as well as paragraph [0027] of the specification) have been amended to correct the typographical error "SiSiC," which should read "SiC." Accordingly, the objections thereto have been overcome.

Finally, the antecedent basis problems in claims 13 and 14 have been amended as outlined above so as to overcome the §112, second paragraph rejections. As claim 13 also contains the subject matter indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-18 are now also in condition for allowance.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0458 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,  
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